

**FEEDING DREAMS  
CAMBODIA**

**Newsletter**

**FEBRUARY 2017**



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# New House Built For Desperate Granny & Her 9 Grandchildren



Feeding Dreams is delighted to announce that with the kind support of funds raised by [Clare McKinney Makeup & Beauty](#) in conjunction with funds from [Roll'N On Bower](#), we have managed to build Mrs. Roeun (Granny) a new house for herself and her 9 grandchildren.

We first met Granny a couple of months ago when two of her youngest grandkids Pisey & Sokly had wandered out of their home, strolled into our Kindy classroom and made themselves at home in our playground.

Not knowing who these children belonged to, our Khmer staff asked the kids where they lived. They then walked them back to their home in a slum only 300 meters from our gates. Their Granny had been looking everywhere for them, and was distraught.

More concerning to our team, was the state of the urban slum which they had uncovered - one of the worst we had ever seen. With further research, we learned that the occupants of this nearby slum had known of Feeding Dreams for years but were under the impression it cost \$5USD to enroll a child - hence why we had never heard from any of the families.

The community support team saw that Granny was living in a near collapsed shack with 9 grandkids. They invited Granny and her large family back to Feeding Dreams to hear their story.

After lengthy discussions regarding her family tree, it was revealed that Granny, was solely responsible for raising all 9 of her grandchildren.

Her own daughter is currently in prison with an infant, she had been convicted due to drug related crimes.

To survive, granny and all 9 grandchildren walk several kilometers each day, pushing carts and scavenging for rubbish. Only earning \$2 a day, it was evident that the whole family were chronically malnourished and that most required medical attention.

As a starting point, the FDC team, along with volunteers Rachel and Clare, took the family to [Neak Tep Clinic](#).

From this consultation we learned that members of the family were suffering chronic malnutrition. We also learned that Pisey, the son of Granny's convicted daughter, was born with a twisted spine and postural deformities; sadly his mother was both malnourished and taking drugs while she was pregnant.





Granny's love and admiration for all of the children is clear, she does everything within her power to take care of them, and at the same time forgets to take care of herself.

Everyone at Feeding Dreams was touched by her story and despite being at capacity, our team enrolled the children into our Free classes and daily nutritious meals (which they so desperately needed).

Next on the agenda was fixing up Granny's house, the one that they were living in was an impending safety hazard, if it were to fall over it could have easily killed any one of the family members.

Our long term volunteer and handy man Garry set off with his team of helpers Sen, Yea & O'shea to name a few. Together, along with local members in the neighborhood they spent a week constructing a brand new house.

On Tuesday the 7th of February, we officially opened her house, the chief of the village was there and the whole community gathered around as we presented Granny with new supplies such as cooking materials, mats and mosquito nets.

We have already had the wonderful Sharon Muller kindly sponsor Pisey and moving forward we will be working on getting sponsorship for more of Granny's grandchildren so that they can stop collecting rubbish and focus on their education at a local Khmer school.

We hope that with this assistance, Granny will begin to take better care of herself and that her life, and the lives of her beautiful grandchildren will improve.

**THANK YOU** again, to [Clare McKinney Makeup & Beauty](#) and [Roll'N On Bower](#), for donating the funds to make this all possible!





## Our payment Gateways

WE OFFER TAX DEDUCTIBILITY IN  
AUSTRALIA, USA, CANADA AND UK ATTRACTS AUTOMATIC GIFT AID



### UK/Global

Donations With 25%  
Gift Aid



### Canada

Fully Tax Deductable  
Donations



### U.S.A #277

Fully Tax Deductable  
Donations



### Australia

Fully Tax Deductable  
Donations

**OR** *Donate Direct*

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ANZ Royal Bank Ltd  
Siem Reap, Cambodia



## A volunteers story....

"I have been fortunate enough to be able to visit and volunteer at Feeding Dreams Cambodia several times over the past few years and have had a wonderful time getting to know the staff, other volunteers and kids from the school.

Since being involved with the school, I have assisted with teaching, helped children with glasses and other medical and optical care, assisted with the feeding program, done food drops to various slums, provided laptops to the computer class, donated foot ware, clothing, stationery and backpacks for the kids, and have been able to raise awareness and fundraise via my work, family and social circles.

Around three years ago the school moved to its current location and I am in awe on my return each year with the progress, from the classrooms, football pitch, staff offices, and this year alone, Mel's Kindy Corner and the new Dreams Training Centre.

Seeing the school now set up to provide kindy care, English and maths classes for all ages, computer classes and vocational education, from the 2-3 years olds through to young adults, you can see the fantastic opportunities for the students and families to break the cycle of poverty that most of them are born into.

Receiving a meal each day provides much needed nutrition and reduces some of the burden on the families. Seeing these kids grow, fill out and to see their expanded confidence each year is just amazing!

I am a better person for being involved with Feeding Dreams. It is a humbling and grounding experience to have has this opportunity to contribute and help others in some small way and I would encourage anyone to get out of their comfort zone and try to make a difference!"

- Tracey Broers, Australia



[Connect with Tracey](#)



## Second Intake Commence Their Vocational Training

On the 1st of January 2016, we welcomed 29 new underprivileged youth to the [Feeding Dreams Training Centre](#).

Each and every one of our trainee's come from extremely vulnerable circumstances. All have been forced to abandon their education and as a means of survival have been subject to exploitative child labour.

We urge Feeding Dreams supporters to consider sponsoring one of our training centre students, for just one year, at US\$100 a month, you will be able to directly change the lives of these individuals.

By providing them with vocational training, an Asean recognized accreditation and job placement, these youths will leave behind a life of starvation and enter into a lifestyle with honest working conditions, fair salaries, a means to provide for themselves and their families and ultimately a way out of poverty.

### YOUTHS AWAITING SPONSORSHIP



# Video Profiles Of New Students

The footage from both videos was taken in December 2016 when the DTC team carried out home visits of all our new applicants.

It is difficult to imagine their hardships; this video seeks to provide an insight to what their lives were like before commencing at the DTC.

Please [click here for Pek's story](#), and [here for Phors' story](#).





## Redland Ramblers Annual Fundraiser

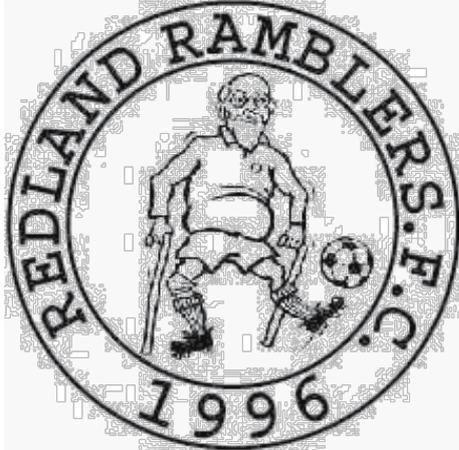
A special mention to our favourite Bristol UK Football Club:

### THE REDLAND RAMBLERS

We thank you for your generous donation in our matched funds campaign, and we highly appreciate your ongoing creative fundraising and support over the years.

Football and sports have become an integral part of the curriculum taught to all at FDC and the soccer pitch you helped to build is being cherished by our 800 children each week.

Your love and support continues to play a major role in the success and operations of Feeding Dreams Cambodia, educating & feeding 800 children, and touching the lives of approximately 3,000 residents through our community.



# Mrs. Shin's Heartbreaking Story Of Domestic Violence

In Cambodian society, domestic violence has become deeply ingrained in the lives of many families. At Feeding Dreams, we don't just support the children we also support their families.

Meet Mrs. Morn Shin, she is 29 years old, has three children (her daughter Kanchana attends FDC) and is married to Chan Savuth. When her husband drinks he becomes increasingly aggressive towards Morn and sadly he beats her.

On delivering rice to a local slum where Mrs. Shin lives, we noticed her face, and it was evident that she required immediate medical attention. Apparently she had been kicked in the face by her husband 6 days prior. She had attended a local hospital, in agonizing pain, only to be told no doctor could see her or provide pain relief because she had no money.

Our community support team, along with the Merkas family, who were volunteering at the time with medical qualifications, took Mrs. Shin to our partner hospital [Neak Tep Clinic](#).

After her first consultation Mrs. Shin was sent to [Royal Angkor International Hospital](#) for a CT Brain Scan. This revealed three fractures in her eye socket, one hemorrhage and a 1.8x3cm hematoma in the right side of her face, this scan was kindly paid by the Merkas family.

The doctors informed that the large blood clot in her cheek was at risk of seeping into her eye or brain, it was likely to cause permanent blindness or worse, a stroke. Mrs. Shin's only chance of a safe recovery was to have the hematoma surgically removed at the [Children's Surgical Hospital](#) in Phnom Penh.

A major supporter Clare McKinney of Ireland was also visiting, and had brought with her the hard earned funds raised by herself and her generous clients. Clare was insistent that a portion from her previous fundraiser be used to pay for Mrs. Shin's treatment.

A Feeding Dreams staff member escorted Mrs. Shin on the bus to Phnom Penh where her surgery was safely executed. She returned to Siem Reap a few days later with strong antibiotics to prevent infection and her recovery has been closely monitored by our community support staff.

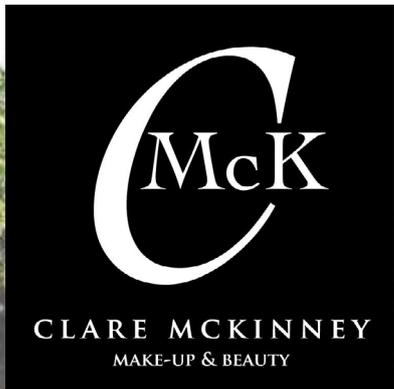
Our community support team have since been monitoring and counseling Mrs. Shin and her husband.

A huge **THANK YOU** to all involved in the treatment and recovery of Mrs. Shin.





Mrs. Shin's Road to Recovery



# Insight Cambodia Share Their Skills With The Dreams Training Centre



'[Insight Cambodia](#)' is a group of students who are currently undergoing the 'Master of Arts in Strategy and International Management' at the [University of St. Gallen](#), Switzerland. In 2016, this university was recognized by The Financial Times as the leading business university in Switzerland and the fifth best in the whole of Europe.

As a part of their course, each student must complete '[The SIMagination Challenge](#)', where they are required to plan, execute and reflect upon a challenging project which aims at leaving a positive and sustainable social impact on society. In diverse teams of 4-8 members, they are to expand and substantiate already founded projects from a preceding SIM generation - lucky for us, we are that project!

The first generation of students came to FDC in 2016, and for their challenge, they helped produce a financial literacy course for our Dreams Training Centre students, this included saving plans, financial management and opening a bank account for each trainee.

Following on, this years team asked what our most urgent need was at Feeding Dreams and which area we needed their help the most with. This was the launch of our fourth department at the Dreams Training Centre, the 'Kitchen'. On top of this, we asked that these young professionals help us devise a business strategy for opening our training restaurant to the public and to pitch ideas around ways in which we can generate more funds on ground, so that we can sustain our running costs.

With no funding in our budget for kitchen supplies the team hit the ground running with bake sales back in Switzerland, over the course of two months they managed to raise an EPIC \$5,000!

We were blown away by their efforts and so grateful, as it meant we were finally able to launch the 'Kitchen' program for our second intake on January the 1st.



# Insight Cambodia's Week on Ground



After back and forth meetings on Skype, on the 5th of February, Feeding Dreams warmly welcomed the team to carry out the rest of their project on site.

Over the course of the week, Insight Cambodia was extremely busy developing strategies to help us sustain our running costs at the Dreams Training Centre.

The team split into two groups and worked on a Corporate Social Responsibility proposal to pitch back in Switzerland, and a business plan to open our training restaurant to the public.

The idea behind our training restaurant is not only to generate funds, but to raise awareness and to also provide our vocational trainee's with the opportunity to gain real life experience by practicing their skills with foreigners.



During their research stage, the group also explored the idea of inviting foreigners out to the training centre each Friday for one afternoon. Guests would be invited to play mixed football with our underprivileged youth followed by one hour of 'happy hour', receiving our signature cocktails served by our trainee's.

We absolutely loved this idea, so much so that we decided to test run the experience on the group themselves. It was a great way to conclude their hard working week - needless to say the cocktails went down a treat!



Thank You so much to Valerie, Nacho, Phillip, Guillame, David and Paul. It was a pleasure to have you all here, you have all worked so diligently on idea's to help us at Feeding Dreams.

We look forward to touching base with you when you arrive back in Switzerland and are excited to put your plans into action soon!



# Celebrating our new 5 star toilet block



We would like to extend an enormous heartfelt THANK YOU to our supporters [Kids International Development Society](#) and [Compassionate Eye Foundation](#) for kindly donating our brand new hygienic toilet block.

With four western toilets, this new block serves our 800 children per day and a myriad of staff and volunteers. Our two old toilets and septic systems were becoming an increasing health risk, which no amount of repair could improve.

On behalf of every single person at Feeding Dreams, we sincerely appreciate your important contribution to our school!



## Grant Matching Appeal!



In January this year, our financial need for donations was at its all time greatest and we urgently required funds to continue providing all seven programs to our poor beneficiaries.

Thankfully, a long-term anonymous supporter of FDC pledged to match all donations up to the value of US\$20,000 for the month of January.

The response fundraising campaign was overwhelming and we feel blessed to announce that our target was not only matched but exceeded.

These funds were desperately needed to help us effectively continue into 2017. We owe a profound amount of thanks and praise to so many people, the list too long to name!

If you have donated, big or small, we **THANK YOU** immensely for your assistance, generosity and love - without YOU all, Feeding Dreams would not be here today.

Moving forward, with many fund-raising strategies in the pipelines, we feel confident that this year will be a prosperous year for FDC.

With your ongoing support, we look forward to continuing to serve the underprivileged youth, poor children, and their families living in the urban slums of Siem Reap.



# Thank you to the VIP donors club

This VIP Donor's Club specifically recognize those humanitarians that understand there is only one way Cambodian children will climb out of the dark depths of poverty, sickness, malnutrition, suffering and exploitation, and that is with basic Education, Nutrition and Life Skills. It is imperative our Education Program is unwavering, and therefore, we are inviting all caring friends, families, schools, businesses and like, to choose one of your favourite teachers, cooks, cleaners, or Community Support Workers, and commit to supporting their salary for a period of 12 months to ensure the longevity of this vital program.

We shall proudly display your name and hyper-link, family or business name on our website, Facebook and Newsletter regularly. You and your immediate family will also be entitled to Free Volunteer experiences with Feeding Dreams Cambodia annually.

**All donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**



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## Srey Ra

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**THE HENRY FAMILY**

## Team members in need of sponsorship

Each staff member listed below plays a crucial role in the overall operations of our centre, and they too are from very poor families and have overcome all odds to be where they are today. Without them, there is no feeding of dreams for Cambodian children and their families. They too need to feel valued.



## Seng

**SOCIAL WORKER**

US \$230/Month  
US \$2,660/Year

[Click here to read more](#)



## Sok Mean

**I.T SPECIALIST/TEACHER**

US \$400/Month  
US \$4,700/Year

[Click here to read more](#)



## Sinang

**SOCIAL WORKER**

US \$230/Month  
US \$2,660/Year

[Click here to read more](#)

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Feeding Dreams Team would like to say a special thank you from our hearts to our lovely friends and donors from across the globe.

Without humanitarian love, support, and engagement in our work with the impoverished, we could not have continued our life saving programs for these beautiful people.

**Thank you**

[www.feedingdreamscambodia.org](http://www.feedingdreamscambodia.org)